



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Susan W. Brooks
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 27, 2007

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/index.htm>

CONTACT: MARY BIPPUS

(317) 229-2403

Fax: (317) 226-5002

Cell: (317) 590-7928

**MICHELLE KORTY, ADVOCATE,
CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES,
RECOGNIZED FOR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL CRIME VICTIMS**

PRESS RELEASE

In honor of National Crime Victim's Rights Week, which is April 22-28th, Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, today recognized the efforts of Michelle Korty, an advocate employed by the Center for Women and Families, as a 2007 recipient of the United States Attorney's Carol S. Morris Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Rights of Victims. Michelle Korty was nominated for this award by Cheryl J. Hillenburg, Crawford County Prosecuting Attorney.

This is a special award given annually by the United States Attorney's Office to honor individuals who unselfishly give of their time and effort to better the lives of crime victims in the Southern District of Indiana. It especially reflects the nation's recent heightened awareness of the devastating impact of crime and violence on its victims, while underscoring the importance of helping victims heal and rebuild their lives.

Over the past 8 years, Michelle Korty has led the efforts toward increased community awareness efforts involving victims in Scott County. Ms. Korty has played an integral part in organizing domestic violence and child abuse candlelight vigils; self defense courses; Project Equality and CARE programs; and Community Way Fair for kids. Her involvement with schools, Prevent Child Abuse, Scott County Citizens Against Substance Abuse and the Scott County Providers are a few examples of organizations with whom she has shared her knowledge and time.

Michelle Korty works tirelessly to education people about available resources for victims of crime. Michelle, with her husband, Jim, have given of their time and money to further community awareness and to help people when community resources weren't available or were

inadequate. She paid for postage for invitations to events, orchestrated furnishing many homes for women who were starting over, and spent many hours at the hospital helping victims, hospital staff and law enforcement.

People become advocates for a variety of reasons. For Michelle Korty - the wisdom she gained as a survivor of abuse is an insight she imparts to people who desperately need to know that they too can survive and succeed.

The U.S. Attorney's Award was established in 1991 to recognize those persons who have made significant contributions in the lives of crime victims. National Crime Victim's Rights Week is a time for all Americans to learn about victimization, reflect on the cost of crime to our society, and promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The week's theme, "victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time" envisions a strengthened national commitment to the nearly 24 million Americans harmed by crime each year.

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws; law enforcement agencies give victims greater protection; and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established throughout the country.

"We are all diminished when victims go without the protections and help they need," said John W. Gillis, director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice. "Anytime a crime is not reported, a witness is intimidated, or an order of restitution is not enforced, we are all less secure. Achieving justice means repairing the harm suffered by all victims of crime."

###

Victim Witness Award 07-Korty.wpd

